4/19/77

Dear Dave,

Les Payne phoned today. His experiences out there were quite gratifying to him. (And so they are also to me!)

It was also a stimulating experience. He told me he has to do more of it. Knowing how much this has meant to me I'm not surprised.

He was much taken with all of you, personally and impersonally.

He was gratified with the students and their knowledge and the high intelligence of their questions.

He was pleased that so many white students attended an affair of the black students. He has the impression that this may bring some of them closer together, that the black students underestimated the interest and involvement of so many white students.

If he did no more than this, and that would shock me, I would think it was more than merely a good experience.

He tells me Dreyfus is thinking of running for governor. I think you could do much worse and not much better.

Jim had told me that the student reaction was great. That does not surprise me. After all, I not only urged Wes on you, I expected this reaction to him.

What pleases me more is the effect your kids had on Wes. I think he will be spending more time on campuses from now on and I think many young lives will be enriched by it.

It is one of my hopes that some of these young people will now tell themselves that what they may have seen as impossible may not be, that they will be better students for it, get more out of college for it, and that the world will be better for it to the degree that individuals can better the world.

I also hope the faculty and administration appreciate what you are doing.

Best to you all,